

this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

### ***Amendments***

#### ***In the Specification:***

Immediately after page 66, please insert the Abstract that is appended hereto.

#### ***In the Claims:***

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1:

E<sup>1</sup>

1. (Thrice amended) A DNA construct, which comprises a DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA molecule which is at least 90% homologous thereto, wherein said DNA molecule is under control of a heterologous neuro-specific promoter, and wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein that has an activity of AD7c-NTP when over-expressed in neuronal cells.

Please substitute the following claim 10 for the pending claim 10:

E<sup>2</sup>

10. (Twice Amended) An *in vitro* method for screening a candidate drug that is potentially useful for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate drug with the host cell of claim 5, and

- E<sup>2</sup>
- (b) detecting at least one of the following:
    - (i) the suppression or prevention of expression of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell;
    - (ii) the increased degradation of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell; or
    - (iii) the reduction of frequency of at least one of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, degenerating neurons, neurofibrillary tangles, or irregular swollen neurites and axons in said host cell, wherein said host cell is a neuronal cell;

due to the drug candidate compared to a control cell line which has not contacted the candidate drug.

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Please substitute the following claim 44 for the pending claim 44:

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44. (Once amended) An *in vitro* method for screening a candidate drug that is potentially useful for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas, said method comprising:

- E<sup>3</sup>
- (a) contacting a candidate drug with the host cell of claim 42, and
  - (b) detecting at least one of the following:
    - (i) the suppression or prevention of expression of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell;
    - (ii) the increased degradation of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell; or

- E<sup>3</sup>
- (iii) the reduction of frequency of at least one of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, degenerating neurons, neurofibrillary tangles, or irregular swollen neurites and axons in said host cell, wherein said host cell is a neuronal cell;

due to the drug candidate compared to a control cell line which has not contacted the candidate drug.

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